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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04578 131348Z

53
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 031243
R 131105Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9747

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 4578

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR CB RP ID JA
SUBJECT: SOME ASEAN AMBASSADORS REPORTEDLY FAVORING
LON NOL'S RESIGNATION

1. PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR VIRAY CALLED ON ME TODAY TO SAY THERE IS SOME FEELING AMONG HIS "ASEAN"COLLEAGUES IN PHNOM PENH THAT LON NOL SHOULD STEP ASIDE. THEY ARE INCLUDED, HE SAID, TO BELIEVE THAT HIS REPLACEMENT BY A NEW (UNSPECIFIED) LEADERSHIP MIGHT (A) "GALVANIZE" THE KHMER REPUBLIC AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT, AND (B) HELP PREPARE THE GROUNDS FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT.

2. I WAS DELIBERATELY NOT RESPONSIVE TO VIRAY'S OBVIOUS INTEREST IN ELICITING MY COMMENT. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION, I HADE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT I AM NOT HERE TO UNDERMINE IN ANY WAY THE LEGALLY CONSTITUTED KHMER GOVERNMENT OR ITS LEADERSHIP. I RECOMMANDED, INSTEAD, THAT WHATEVER THOUGHTS WHICH HIS OR OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS MIGHT HAVE WITH REGARD TO LON NOL'S LEADERSHIP SHOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY BE PUT TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THROUGH THEIR EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT: VIRAY WAS VAGUE ABOUT HOW MANY ASEAN AMBASSA-DORS HERE HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN INVOLVED IN WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "DISCUSSIONS" ON THIS MATTER. IN ADDITION TO HIMSELF, HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE INDOESIAN AMBASSADOR, AS WELL AS THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR. ALSO NOT ALL CLEAR
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IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THESE "DISCUSSIONS" HAVE BEEN

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REPORTED TO OR ARE IN RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE
FOREIGN MINISTRIES CONCERNED2; ;84-6 8,$8:-53$ 5#-5, FOR
HIS PART, HE HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS
GOVERNMENT.
DEAN

SECRET

NNN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 MAR 1975
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CB, RP, ID, JA, ASEAN, (LON NOL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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